

# Undergraduate Catalog of Courses

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## Studies for International and Multilingual Students

Saint Mary's College of California

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## STUDIES FOR INTERNATIONAL AND MULTILINGUAL STUDENTS

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The SIMS, now in its fourth decade of operation, exists to provide international and multilingual students with high quality language instruction. The program also fosters international awareness of culture and social justice through effective cultural training. This instruction develops the necessary reading, writing, critical thinking, oral communication and cross-cultural skills to meet academic, professional, and social goals. Trained advisors with vast experience who are aware of the unique needs of this population support the students' academic and personal transition to college. **SIMS 4** and **5** fulfill the English Composition Requirement (see Program of Study, p. 44) **SIMS 15** is required of all international students who have not completed their entire secondary education in the United States (see Program of Study, p. 44)

### FACULTY

Nushafarin Safinya, M.A., Lecturer

John Knight, M.A., Lecturer

Chris Correale, Lecturer

### PREREQUISITE GRADE

Any course listed in this program with a prerequisite assumes a grade of C– or better in the prerequisite course.

### LEARNING GOALS

- **TO CREATE** a community of writers, readers, listeners, and thinkers
- **TO DEVELOP** students' understanding of writing as a process
- **TO HELP** students think critically
- **TO INVOLVE** students in the local community
- **TO ENGAGE** students in meaningful cross-cultural communication
- **TO INTRODUCE** students to the complex web of accessing, evaluating, and using information critically and effectively
- **TO PREPARE** students to write standard edited English
- **TO PREPARE** students for effective oral communication

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to

- **READ** a text on their own and participate actively in group discussions
- **BRAINSTORM** and outline ideas for essays; then create and revise rough drafts
- **CREATE** a portfolio demonstrating mastery of narrative, descriptive, comparison/contrast, definition, and argumentative essays
- **DEMONSTRATE** greater knowledge of their own and American culture after completing a semester-long community service assignment
- **UTILIZE** various types of media in preparing and documenting essays for portfolios
- **PREPARE** and defend positions in oral debates

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## C O U R S E S

### **SIMS 3 Practice in Writing for Non-Native Writers**

This course is designed primarily for students whose native language is not English and who score 3 or less on the SIMS Analytical Writing Placement Exam. The purpose of **SIMS 3** is to bridge the gap between students' present level of writing competency and that expected in **SIMS 4**. Students write multiple drafts of essays concentrating on developing and organizing ideas, constructing complex sentences, and enhancing proofreading and editing skills. With an enrollment limited to 15, classes are team-taught to allow for individualized instruction. A grade of C– or better and passing an exit exam are required before enrolling in **SIMS 4**.

### **SIMS 4 Composition for Non-Native Writers**

This course, designed primarily for students whose native language is not English, satisfies the English composition requirement (see Program of Study, p. 44). Work focuses on the expository essay and guides the student through the various stages in the writing process, including content generation, pre-writing, and editing. Essays and several full-length works provide models for writing and help students develop both critical thinking and discussion skills. Students must demonstrate competency on rhetorical and mechanical levels through in-class writing and two portfolios of carefully revised assignments. *Prerequisite:* Score of 4 or higher on SIMS Analytical Writing Placement Examination *OR* successful completion of **SIMS 3**.

### **SIMS 5 Argument and Research for Non-Native Writers**

Building on the composition skills developed in **SIMS 4**, this course focuses on the production of at least two major research papers while enhancing the ability to analyze and persuade through writing and debate. Students develop sophisticated research questions and compose substantial arguments in response to those questions, incorporating extensive independent library research and demonstrating mastery of standard academic documentation. Works of contemporary relevance provide models for effective writing and critical reflection. In addition to the research papers, students must submit two portfolios of work demonstrating competence in the above skills. *Prerequisite:* **SIMS 4** or **English 4**. May be required of transfer students.

### **SIMS 15 American Culture and Civilization**

This survey course provides the student with the tools to interpret and evaluate culture from a social science perspective. The approach is cultural with an emphasis on American values, life-styles, and traditions within a framework of the day-to-day workings of American culture. Course work is comprised of lectures, readings, discussions, and fieldwork projects. **Required of all international students.** Must be taken during the first semester of attendance. In certain cases, permission for exemption may be granted upon evaluation by the SIMS Placement Committee.

### **SIMS 020 Cross-Cultural Training**

This course is designed to help students build the necessary cross-cultural skills to enhance study and life abroad. Topics include culture learning, American values and assumptions, learning and coping strategies, and research on the target culture. The skills learned in this class will be useful in any environment where communication with others is important.

### **SIMS 101 Writing Tutor Workshops for Non-Native Writers of English** (.25)

Through examining their own work in a workshop environment, students learn techniques for coaching non-native writers of English in developing and editing academic writing. Theories about cross-cultural communication are discussed and tested in practice.